EPILOGUE

TO

TAMERLANE,

ON

The Suppreſſion of the REBELLION.

SPOKEN

By Mrs. PRITCHARD,

In the Character of the COMIC MUSE, *Nov.* 4. 1746.

By Horace Walpole.

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BRITONS, once more in annual Joy we meet
This genial Night in Freedom's fav'rite Seat:
And o'er the * two great Empires ſtill I reign
Of *Covent-Garden*, and of *Drury-Lane*.
But ah! what Clouds o'er all our Realms impended!
Our Ruin artleſs Prodigies portended.

Chains,

* The Two Great Empires of the World I know,
This of PERU, and That of MEXICO. *Indian Emperor.*

Chains, real Chains, our Heroes had in View,
And Scenes of mimic Dungeons chang'd to true.
An equal Fate the Stage and *Britain* dreaded,
Had *Rome*'s young Miſſionary Spark ſucceeded.
But Laws and Liberties are trifling Treaſures;
He threatned that grave Property, your Pleaſures.

For Me, an idle Muſe, I ne'er diſſembled
My Fears; but e'en my Tragic Siſter trembled:
O'er all her Sons She caſt her mournful Eyes,
And heav'd her Breaſt more than Dramatic Sighs;
To Eyes well-tutor'd in the Trade of Grief,
She rais'd a ſmall and well-lac'd Handkerchief;
And then with decent Pauſe----and Accent broke,
Her buſkin'd Progeny the Dame beſpoke:
" Ah! Sons, * our Dawn is overcaſt, and all
" Theatric Glories nodding to their Fall;

" From

* The Dawn is over caſt, the Morning lours,
And heavily in Clouds brings on the Day,
The great, th' important Day, big with the Fate
Of CATO and of ROME. CATO.

" From foreign Realms a bloody Chief is come,
" Big with the Work of Slav'ry and of *Rome.*
" A general Ruin on his Sword He wears,
" Fatal alike to Audience and to Play'rs.
" For ah! my Sons, what Freedom for the Stage,
" When Bigotry with Senſe ſhall Battle wage?
" When Monkiſh Laureats only wear the Bays,
" † Inquiſitors Lord Chamberlains of Plays,
" Plays ſhall be damn'd that ſcap'd the Critic's Rage,
" For Prieſts are ſtill worſe Tyrants to the Stage.
" *Cato*, receiv'd by Audiences ſo gracious,
" Shall find ten *Cæſars* in one St. *Ignatius:*
" And godlike *Brutus* here ſhall meet again
" His Evil Genius in a *Capuchin.*
" For Hereſy the Fav'rites of the Pit
" Muſt burn, and excommunicated Wit;
" And at one Stake We ſhall behold expire
" My *Anna Bullen*, and the *Spaniſh Fryar.*

" Ev'n

† CIBBER preſide Lord Chancellor of Plays. POPE.

" Ev'n *Tamerlane*, whoſe ſainted Name appears
" Red-letter'd in the Calendar of Play'rs,
" Oft as theſe feſtal Rites attend the Morn
" Of Liberty reſtor'd, and WILLIAM born -----
" But at *that* Name, what Tranſports flood my Eyes,
" What golden Viſion's This I ſee ariſe?
" What Youth is He with comlieſt Conqueſt crown'd,
" His warlike Brow with full-blown Laurels bound?
" What Wreaths are Theſe that Vict'ry dares to join,
" And blend with Trophies of my fav'rite *Boyn*?
" Oh! if the Muſe can happy aught preſage,
" Of new Deliv'rance to the State and Stage;
" If not untaught the Characters to ſpell
" Of all who bravely fight or conquer well;
" † *Thou* ſhalt be WILLIAM----like the Laſt deſign'd
" The Tyrant's Scourge, and Bleſſing of Mankind;
" Born civil Tumult, and blind Zeal to quell,
" That teaches happy Subjects to rebell.

" *Naſſau*

* TAMERLANE is always acted on the 4th and 5th of *November*, the Anniverſaries of King WILLIAM's Birth and Landing.

† *Tu Marcellus eris.* VIR.

" *Naſſau* himſelf but half our Vows ſhall ſhare,
" Divide our Incenſe and divide our Pray'r;
" And oft as *Tamerlane* ſhall lend his Fame
" To ſhadow *His*, thy rival Star ſhall claim
" * Th' ambiguous Laurel and the doubtful Name.

* *Conditor Iliados cantabitur atque Maronis*
Altiſoni dubiam facientia Carmina Palmam. Juv.

F I N I S.

" Nor for himself but half our Vows shall share,
" Divide our Incense and divide our Pray'rs;
" And oft as Tamerlane shall lend his Name
" To shadow His, thy rival Star shall claim
" * Th' ambiguous Laurel and the doubtful Name.

* Cujilov Thinks [illegible] Laurel
Magni dubium [illegible] Palmæ. Juv.